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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

Lieut.-Genl. Tojo, the War Minister, has become the Prime Minister of Japan and the Cabinet includes five civilians, the others belonging to the forces. The general belief is that extremism is on the saddle. If Moscow falls, Japan may fall upon Russia in Eastern Siberia as Germany's second jackal or she may attack Thailand or possibly the East Indies as well. Russia's eastern forces are very strong and the winter will make operations difficult. An attack on Thailand risks the intervention of America.

America has been stirred by the torpedoing of the United States destroyer *Kearney* in the North Atlantic. Is it a policy of sea offensive against the United States, it is asked. Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, has said that protesting to Germany for the torpedoing of the destroyer *Kearney* is as good as sending a diplomatic note to an international highwayman. The destroyer *Kearney* has reached port with 11 men reported missing and 2 reported injured. The *Bold Venture* flying the Panama flag has been torpedoed *en route* from Baltimore to England. This has been followed by the sinking of the United States freighter *Lehigh*, on Sunday and this is the tenth United States vessel to receive attention at Nazi hands.

Over one thousand Protestant bishops, educationists, clergymen and editors have petitioned President Roosevelt pledging their readiness to accept any sacrifice asked of them for furthering aid to Russia so that freedom "may march on its enemy and that it may march from Washington."

The United States Secretary of State for War, Mr. Stimson, has stated that an Axis attack on Iceland will meet joint resistance from British and American forces. He added that the American troops will eventually replace all British forces in Iceland.

Two re-commissioned American submarines are being transferred to the British Navy under the Lease and Lend Act. They will be manned by British crews before leaving United States waters.

The latest estimate of German losses on the Eastern Front is now four million killed and injured. While the situation as regards the Moscow battle is still grave, there are indications that the battle for the Donetz basin is raging fiercely. General Zhukov has replaced General Timoshenko in the Western Sector. The Russians are resisting everywhere with great determination and valour. A state of siege has been proclaimed in Moscow. The capital of Soviet Russia has been transferred from Moscow to Kujbyshev.

Russia has evacuated Taganrog on the Sea of Azov. The battle for the Crimea has been intensified.

Gen. Karl Frederick Holtz, the Nazi Commander of the Nantes district has been assassinated. It is stated that 50 hostages have been shot as a reprisal for the assassination and 50 more hostages will be shot if the guilty persons are not promptly arrested. Another German officer was shot dead at Bordeaux on Tuesday and 50 hostages have been arrested.

Though German submarines and planes are busy in the Atlantic, British convoys continue to cross the dangerous waters and the strength of the convoying British forces is increasing daily. There is reason for confidence and the help given by American Navy is invaluable.

As a result of representations made by British and Russian Governments, the Afghanistan Government have asked German and Italian nationals not engaged in Consular duties to leave the country. The readiness of the Afghan Government to observe strict neutrality is contrasted with the attitude of the ex-Shah of Persia.

The total casualties of the British armies, including prisoners of war, on all fronts is 100,000, those of the Dominions being 20,000. Indian casualties on all fronts now number 7,000. It is announced that the number of British Empire prisoners of war in enemy hands is 66,000.

The House of Lords has adopted a resolution recording its admiration of the heroic resistance of Russia to German aggression. Lord Beaverbrook stated in the Lords that Great Britain has supplied Russia with what she wanted in aluminium, copper, lead, zinc, cobalt, brass, jute, wool, parchment, dyes and shellac, oil and petrol were being supplied by America. Besides tanks and munitions were being taken to Russia. Necessary locomotives and rolling stock were being supplied to Persia to improve the means of communication from the Persian Gulf to Russia. It is stated that "all United States' promises are being fulfilled."

THE UNITED STATES' NEUTRALITY ACT

The House of Representatives has passed the measure for arming United States merchantmen by 259 votes to 138. Earlier the House had rejected by 257 votes to 136 the Opposition proposal to send the measure back to the Foreign Affairs Committee for further hearing. The first witness to appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was Mr. Cordell Hull. He stated that the Neutrality Act should be repealed or modified and warned America that the attack by German submarines on American shipping was continuous and that there was reason to believe that it would steadily increase in strength and intensity. He reminded the Committee that when the Neutrality Act was passed America did not intend to waive her right to take the fullest measures needed for self-defence on land and sea if the tide of conquest moved in the direction of America. That tide, he said, had now moved. The Secretary for the Interior, Mr. Ickes, asked for the repeal of the "obsolete and unwise" Neutrality Act. Mr. Wendell Willkie has been at it again. In a nation-wide broadcast, he said that America must abandon the hope of peace and that she could no more negotiate peace with the war-lords of Tokyo than with the conquering dictator of Berlin. On any Continent, in every ocean, America could only stop these partners in piracy. They were winning and unless America acted soon it would be too late. Senator Glass described the Neutrality Act as "craven poltroonery" and said that they should repeal the "damn thing." The demand for the total repeal of the Act is gaining ground and no wonder that a Bill for the complete repeal of the Act has been introduced by three Senators. There could be no doubt that the Bill to permit the arming of merchantmen will be passed at a very early date. The total repeal of the Neutrality Act is perhaps a question of time, though President Roosevelt has modestly suggested that American ships should be allowed to enter belligerent ports as the next step that should be taken.

INVASION OF THE CONTINENT

American correspondents in London of American newspapers have sent many dispatches regarding the demand made by a section of the public in Great Britain for an expeditionary force to be sent to the Continent of Europe to relieve German pressure in Russia. It will be recollected that Mr. Churchill referred to this question in his speech in the House of Commons on September 30th. He acknowledged public interest in the matter and said that the Government have had their attention drawn to such questions several times, but he refused to give gratuitous military information to the enemy and reinforced his argument in regard to "the responsibility of the Government to retain here at home an ample first-class force to beat down and annihilate any invading lodgments from the sea or descents from the air." Germany was rather perturbed and despondent because Mr. Churchill refused to reveal the conclusions of the British War Cabinet on this point. Gradually the bombastic German references to invasion of England have become feeble. On the other hand, Hitler went to the length of saying in December last that if Great Britain tried to gain a foothold anywhere on the Continent, she would encounter the German army. The German people, therefore, are now being prepared to a realisation of the consequences of an invasion of the Continent. This sense of defeatism may be welcomed but on that account there should be no hasty action on the part of the Allies.

Those who favour a land offensive against Germany argue somewhat as follows: Such invasion, they say, would involve Germany in a two-front war, which the German High Command has always dreaded and which would compel the German armies to divide their attention. Again, such an offensive, it is stated, would afford the most effective aid to Russia and avert the danger of a Russian collapse. Such action would also bring the simmering opposition to the Germans in the occupied countries to the boiling point of effective action and afford an opportunity of effective rebellion against German occupation. An invasion of the

Continent would also, it is stated, bring about a depressing effect on the German population conducive to collapse or revolution. Finally, such action would show that Britain meant business and would shrink from no sacrifice to achieve a speedy victory.

PRODUCTION BATTLE MUST BE WON.

As against these arguments, it is said that, as a matter of fact, the activities of the R.A.F. over Germany and occupied countries have already involved Germany in a two-front war. Industrial output of Germany is being appreciably reduced and communications, harbours, invasion ports, aerodromes and other industrial plants are being smashed. Again, Russia has already secured the kind and quantity of aid she requires. Any large-scale offensive such as is suggested would probably reduce and perhaps extinguish the possibility of supply of war materials to Russia, thus increasing that very danger of Russian collapse which the advocates of a Western invasion seek to avert.

It may be mentioned in passing that this apprehension of Russian collapse was considerably stronger throughout the world at the beginning of the campaign than at present. Moreover, such an invasion would intensify the German record of assassinations, murders and shootings. An invasion of the Continent would necessarily involve vast preparation of the population of the occupied countries to help such a land offensive and no account of such preparations can obviously be now given to the public. It is further absurd to assume that civilians and isolated groups can succeed where mobilised armies have failed. During the last war, German collapse and revolution happened after 4 years of land warfare. There is no reason to think that the mere landing of an expeditionary force on the Continent would bring about such a revolution. It should be emphasised that though the output in regard to tanks, planes and munitions of war has been mounting up, there is still a gap between the actual and the potential strength of the Allies. America is also supplying plenty of war materials. A most essential pre-requisite of a land operation is the winning of the production race in which Britain was unfortunately a late starter. This production race is being gradually won by British blockade, British defence against the German war on shipping, R.A.F. bombing of German industries and the defence of British industries and it will be wrong to divert British energy from these directions. Finally, a German thrust in the south appears to indicate that the defence line from Egypt to Iran would be the scene of conflict between Great Britain and Germany. The defence of the Middle East has become very vital more than ever before. The great importance of the present stage of war, particularly of the defence of India, is that the Nile-Caucasus front should be held and supplied. It is pertinent to mention in this connexion that Lord Moyne stated in the House of Lords on Wednesday last that a West Front expedition would be madness.

American military commentators, it is refreshing to note, have stated explicitly that any invasion plan is impracticable and is likely to result in disaster. The *New York Times* Military Correspondent says for instance:

> "To-day Russia's situation is such that there is no time to prepare and mount an invasion. Russia may well have sustained almost mortal losses before it could succeed in its objective of drawing off large forces of German troops from the east. So far as the present battle is concerned, only Russia can save herself. Britain has not trained divisions, planes, ships and equipment to undertake with much hope of success a serious invasion of Europe."

It is believed in American circles that Germany has still about 100 divisions on the Western Front to repel any invasion by Great Britain in the West. Britain, it is said, has only about 20 divisions for an invasion effort.

PROGRESS OF BATTLE FOR MOSCOW

The Battle for Moscow has now been in progress for more than a month and the past week has witnessed some of the grimmest and bloodiest fighting that history has ever recorded. The tenacity and ferocity of the Russian resistance has more than matched the German will to advance; Hitler has thrown his men and material recklessly into the battle but the Russians fight every inch of ground and exact a terrific toll from the Germans. Now do the heroic defenders lack well-trained and well-equipped reserves, who are moving in a constant stream to the fighting line.

It appears, in fact, as if the fury of Hitler's onslaught is spending itself. The Germans have not been able to make appreciable progress in the central sector for some days now and there have been no large movements. The stubborn Russian resistance, as "Annalist" the well-known military commentator says, has introduced the time element into the struggle, which may well stand the defenders of Moscow in good stead should they be called upon to man their gates. The citizens of the capital have risen in its defence and the Russian Radio speaks of "a steel wall" around Moscow.

The nearest that the Germans have got to Moscow is on the direct high road to it through Smolensk which Napoleon took in 1812. The Germans reached as far as Mojaisk, about 60 miles from the capital, but were thrown back to Bordino in a fierce Russian counter-attack.

Later, however, the Germans were able to break through at a few places in the Mojaisk

area and the Russians, fighting as stubbornly as ever, took up new positions of defence. The Germans also claimed the fall of Kalinin, north-west of Moscow, on the Leningrad-Moscow Railway, but the Russians appear to have re-occupied the town. In another sector round Moscow, the Germans advanced as far as Kaluga (150 miles south of the capital) and a fierce struggle is raging there. The railway town of Orel which the Germans captured last week is again in hands. And the tall German claims, made from Hitler's headquarters, to have "ended" the double battle of Briansk and Vyazma with the "annihilation" of Marshal Timoshenko's army and the capture of over six hundred thousand prisoners have proved hollow. The Russian troops that were to have been "encircled" by the Germans have fought their way out and joined the main Russian army defending the approaches to Moscow. General Zhukov, former Soviet Chief of Staff, has taken over the command of the Russian Army of the centre and responsibility for the defence of Moscow from Marshal Timoshenko, who has been entrusted with another job.

AN APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION

Thus while the situation in the central sector is still regarded as serious (and must remain so until this tremendous Battle for Moscow is decided one way or the other), it must be held to be better than it was a week ago. But M. Stalin is not taking any chances with the defence of Moscow. He has proclaimed a State of Siege in the capital "in order to assure the defence of Moscow and strengthen the rear of the forces defending the city as well as in order to stop underground activities of spies and agents of German Fascists." And in an Order of the Day, M. Stalin declares "Moscow will be defended to the last. The citizens are remaining calm and are preparing to render every assistance to the troops defending the capital." "Tanks and planes from England and America are coming to our help," declared the Military Commissar of the tenth battalion of the Moscow Home Guard, Boris Abramovich Bakshev, in a broadcast to the citizens of Moscow. He added, "From all corners of our vast country, reinforcements are streaming forward. Our determination and our vast resources will crush the Fascist scum at the approaches to Moscow. Knowing my men and their patriotism, I know we shall not falter. We shall not lose Moscow."

The situation in the north, especially around Leningrad, is equally hopeful. The heroic defenders of that city seem determined to defy all the Nazis' strength and wile. Not only that. The Russian army under Marshal Voroshilov is incessantly harrying the Germans with powerful counter-attacks just outside Leningrad. And it is now revealed that a strong Russian force has been landed by sea west of Leningrad in the rear of the Germans and has given a good account of itself. And, despite all Finnish claims, the Arctic port of Murmansk is safe in Russian hands.

The situation in the south is, however, as critical as in the centre. Little progress, it is true, has been made by the Germans in their drive from Poltava to Kharkov and the attack on the Crimean Peninsula, just renewed, appears to have been held by the Russians defending the Perekop Isthmus. But Marshal Budenny, commanding the Russian army in this sector, is seriously embarrassed by the German successes on the coast of the Sea of Azov which are undoubtedly a prelude to a full-fledged German attempt to take by storm the key-city of Rostov on the Don, through which pass railways and an oil pipe-line from the Caucasus. The Germans have captured Taganrog and this certainly constitutes a danger to Rostov. The Germans also claim to have entered Stalino.

Further south, the Russians have evacuated Odessa, the operations taking eight days and going according to plan. They have saved a large amount of their equipment and left nothing but "scorched earth" behind. The entire garrison has gone to strengthen the great Russian Naval Base of Sebastopol, which now assumes even greater importance in view of the German drive to the Caucasus. The Germans and the Rumanians loudly proclaim their triumph in "subduing" Odessa after their long siege; but as the Russians make it clear, the evacuation was not forced by the Axis troops but was a strategic step taken by the Russian High Command of their own volition. As the *Times of India* points out, "from a military point of view, its defence served little purpose once the Nazis reached the Sea of Azov and headed for Kharkov. There was latterly no parallel with Tobruk, since that town sits athwart a narrow line of communications to an enemy firmly held at the front; this was not the case with Odessa." And the Russians urgently wanted elsewhere the troops locked up in that city.

CONFIDENCE IN RUSSIA

All things considered, one feels that Mr. Averell Harriman, Leader of the American delegation to the Moscow Three-Power Conference, is right in reporting to President Roosevelt on his return that he has "great confidence in the Russian situation." British and American help is being rushed to the heroic Russian armies who show an unbroken front to the enemy. That the Russian Government themselves are determined on resistance and feel confident of victory is evident from their decision to leave Moscow and to establish themselves at Kujbyshev, an important industrial town formerly known as Samara, about 550 miles south-east of Moscow on the Volga river. The new seat of

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WHITHER JAPAN?

CRISIS AGAIN IN THE FAR EAST

The situation in the Far East is again causing concern. There has been a change of Cabinet in Japan. Prince Konoye, the Prime Minister, who initiated talks with the United States in order to reach an understanding on the Pacific question, has resigned. A new Ministry under General Tojo has been formed. On paper it does not look more agressive than its predecessor. But the new Foreign Minister, Mr. Shigenori Togo, is expected to look for guidance to Berlin where he was for some time Japan's Ambassador. Possibly that is why he has been chosen in preference to Mr. Shigemitsu, Japan's Ambassador in London, who is now on a visit to Tokyo and who was equally available. The retention of four civilian members of the previous Cabinet is generally held to be more a matter of expediency than policy. Far more significant are the changes in the so-called " Little Cabinet " —of men who held key posts in the Administration and exert an influence often greater than that of the Cabinet proper. The most important appointment to this Little Cabinet is that of Mr. Masayuki Tani as Head of the Information Bureau. Mr. Tani, a former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, was nominated as Ambassador to France two years ago but was not acceptable to the then Democratic Government of France.

And it must not be forgotten that General Tojo is a confirmed nationalist, ardent to the point of aggressiveness. He unites in himself the offices of Prime Minister, Minister for War and Minister for Home Affairs. General Tojo (who was also War Minister in the Konoye Cabinet) has never concealed his affiliations with the inner councils of the Japanese Army. There is every warrant for the common belief—despite denials in Tokyo—that this is a War Cabinet though there is a nominal predominance of civilian Ministers. It is also equally evident that Japan expects to profit by the developments in the war situation. If she feels that Russia cannot effectively resist Germany in the West, she may strike at the Russian Maritime Provinces in the East. True she has a Non-Aggression Agreement with Russia. But has such a thing ever deterred her or her Axis partner? Ironically enough, it was only last week that Russia and Japan signed an agreement, finally settling the border problems between Outer Mongolia and Manchukuo, countries which are in their respective spheres of influence. Japan has periodically threatened to cut off American supplies reaching Russia through the Far Eastern port of Vladivostok; but Russia has warned her against any interference and the United States is determined to keep that supply line open.

Or, Japan may move in the South. The Netherlands East Indies constitute a formidaable proposition though Japan has been casting covetous eyes on their raw products and their strategic bases. Thailand may appear to be an easier prey to the war-mongers at Tokyo. They have already played the bully to Indo-China and secured valuable military, naval and air bases, directly threatening Thailand. The latter has repeatedly declared her determination to defend herself against any attack. She has not become a casualty in the war of nerves which the Japanese Press and Radio are conducting against her in the approved Nazi fashion. But she cannot hope to resist for long any Japanese attack unless she is backed up by the Democratic powers.

NEW PREMIER'S DECLARATION

Finally, for once, Japan may mean what she says. Immediately after the first meeting of his Cabinet, General Tojo declared, in a broadcast, " Japan will continue to contribute towards world peace through the execution of her basic policy of bringing about a settlement of the China incident and the creation of a prosperity sphere in Eastern Asia. Internally, we must consolidate our war-time structure, while externally, we must strengthen our ties with treaty nations. I am confident that we can achieve these objectives through the firm determination of the entire nation. I ask the nation for full co-operation and faith in the Government and thereby justify the glorious three thousand years old tradition of Japan." But the " China Incident " does not appear to be so easy of solution after five years of war. Recently the Chinese have been giving as good as they are getting and Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, their intrepid leader, has expressed the utmost confidence in the eventual outcome of the Sino-Japanese conflict.

A decision is thus rendered very difficult for Japan's new Premier. In his first Order of the Day, addressed to members of the War Cabinet, he declared that " Japan now stands at the cross-roads of life or death " and appealed to them to be prepared to sacrifice everything in order to surmount the current crisis. He again indulged in the usual talk of " the encirclement of Japan by foreign powers "—Does this indicate an uneasy foreboding that Japan has backed the wrong horse in aligning herself with the Axis powers?—and urged the necessity for establishing " iron unity " among all fighting arms and the people.

The Premier's first move is expected, to be to request a definite " Yes " or " No " to Japan's propositions before breaking off the Japanese-American negotiations at Washington. They are already near breaking point, though the Japanese Ambassador has again had a lengthy conference with Mr. Cordell Hull and Mr. Sumner Welles at Washington. As indicated by Mr. Churchill recently, Britain and America have no thought of appeasement

and insist that Japanese aggression must stop. On October 1, Col. Knox, outspoken Secretary of the United States Navy, declared that Nazism would be defeated without doubt and went on to say "that we shall proceed from one measure to another until we have taken adequate steps to bring defeat to the legions of Hitler and his satellites, Italy and Japan, again, I have no doubt".

WASHINGTON TALKS

It is now possible (says Mr. George Holman) to draw a fairly accurate picture of what has been going on behind the scenes of the Tokyo-Washington talks. After his return from the Atlantic Conference, President Roosevelt, anxious to avoid war in the Pacific and prevent Japan from attacking Russia, made an offer to Japan unfreezing Japanese assets and lifting the trade embargoes on the condition that Japan withdrew from Indo-China. Japan replied with a somewhat startling suggestion. She proposed a standstill in the armament of Singapore, the Dutch East Indies, Australia and the Philippines; she requested the intervention of America to achieve a Sino-Japanese peace settlement. The Japanese reply left little ground whereon to build any sort of Pacific settlement. Yet the negotiations continued. Followed the despatch of a personal message by Prince Konoye, then Japanese Prime Minister, to President Roosevelt which, as now everybody seems agreed, contained an invitation to a Pacific meeting with the President after the model of the Atlantic Conference. It seems that the President answered neither in the affirmative nor in the negative, but let it be known that, in his opinion, any such meeting should rather crown a settlement than initiate it. During the last few weeks it transpired that the negotiations had reached a deadlock. Japanese conditions for the settlement of the Chinese " incident "—the control of Chinese treaty ports and four northern provinces of China and the maintenance of military garrisons in other parts of the country—were not acceptable to Washington, which refused to recognize Japan's special status in East Asia and insisted on the reintroduction of the open door principle. Last hopes were pinned on the return of Japan's Minister in Washington, Mr. Wakasugi, from Tokyo with new instructions. Until the very last days both Tokyo and Washington showed themselves anxious to avoid any occurrences which might poison the atmosphere; the President asked Senator Dies to postpone his investigations into possible Japanese espionage in the Panama Canal zone; Tokyo decreed that the anniversary of the Tripartite Pact should be celebrated on tiptoes. It now seems that Col. Knox's drastic remark signals to the American public that the negotiations have definitely collapsed.

WHAT JAPAN HAS TO RECKON WITH

The nations forming, along with America, the Democratic Front in the Far East are indeed ready to counter any possible Japanese move. The A.B.C.D. Front, as it is called, comprising America, the British Commonwealth, China and the Dutch East Indies, have been strengthening their military, naval and air forces against a possible show-down with Japan. " We do not want war with Japan " said Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, " but if Japan insists on it, we are ready." Sir Robert, who has been mainly instrumental in rendering the great British Naval Base at Singapore well-nigh impregnable, has just had a series of conferences with the Dutch defence chiefs at Batavia and with the Australian War Council at Melbourne. Both the Australian and New Zealand Premiers have declared their determination to resist and defeat any aggressive action by Japan. The Netherlands East Indies is ready to repel any invasion and resolved to see that not a single valuable area falls to the Japanese. Thailand and behind her, Burma have consolidated their defence. China is striking blow for Japanese blow and Russia's Far Eastern Army, Fleet and Air Force are more than a match for anything that Japan may move up from Manchuria.

Lastly, there is the United States. Not only has she been rushing aircraft and other supplies to the Democratic forces in the Far East. She has taken a few measures of her own. The Philippines is now on a war-footing, ready to fight side by side with America. As if to serve notice that it is feeling fit for any show-down in the Pacific, the United States Navy Department announced that the programme of constructing air bases in the Pacific was progressing very well. Without so much as a mention of Japan, the official announcement said, " In short the new Pacific bases programme is keeping well apace of the general expansion programme of the Navy in building up the nation's Two-ocean Navy to the greatest array of sea-power the world has ever seen." The Navy said that the Midway Islands base, about twelve hundred miles from Honololu, " has been completed far ahead of schedule." In addition to originally planned construction there, the Navy stated, " substantial expansions " are under way. The Navy also reported exceptional progress in the development of the Alaskan air bases in Sitka Kodiak, and Dutch Harbour. The Navy statement said that a huge new dry dock at Pearl Harbour (Hawaii) was basically complete and that the Kaneohe Air Base in the Island of Oahu was in operation even while enlargements were being carried forward.

Japan must realize that the members of the A.B.C.D. Front are united in their resolve to meet aggression anywhere—in Siberia, in Thailand or in the Dutch East Indies. It is still not too late for her to back out. Will the war-lords of Tokyo allow her to do so?

THE RUSSO-GERMAN WAR

SOVIET STAND

Sir Bernard Pares writes in a recently published book :—

" There is a fine Russian word for a fine Russian quality—*vynoslivost*, 'lasting a thing out,' and it applies not only to the man but to the nation, not only to the body, but the mind."

It is this fine quality that is showing itself now round Vyazma and north of Briansk and Orel, where Soviet soldiers are putting every ounce of their strength, every scintilla of their spirit, into the defence of Moscow—150 Kilometres in their rear.

Hitler must look in vain for any sign of a crack appearing in the firm facade of Russian morale. The 14,000 tanks he has thrown into the present battle have not scared the Russians, nor can all Goering's dive-bombers and parachutists shake their spirit. Like the people of Britain, they can take all Hitler has to hurl against them and still stand firm, eager to hit back hard when their turn comes.

Pravda's phrase, " The danger is great and threatening," means just what it says. It certainly does not mean, as such phrases did during the French campaign, that all is nearly lost. There is no military reason why resistance should not be continued, even if Moscow fell. The Soviet Government has been noted for the frankness of its admissions and the sharpness of its self-criticisms. Stalin's speech in July provides an example of the first; the second is exemplified by the severe criticism of Russia's transport facilities at a conference held only a few months before the German invasion.

In practice, the Russians have been better than their word, not only in the matter of transport, but also in the efficiency of their Air Force, Navy, Tank forces and mechanised infantry. Hitler himself has had to admit his colossal error in underestimating Russian strength and Russian powers of endurance.

Hitler knows, that apart from any consideration of approaching winter, the campaign in the East is a race against time between his tanks and the ships (and factory output) of the British Empire and the United States of America. Any doubts about the effectiveness of the Anglo-American supply organization were dispelled by Lord Beaverbrook, who said on his return to London :—

" The Russians are now being supplied with much that they had asked for and certainly with all that at present we can give. As for tanks and aircraft, the numbers M. Stalin had asked for, just so many have been promised and, lest there should be any confusion, let it be said that the full numbers promised for the month of October have been provided. Guns we have promised, a few big guns, plenty of small guns and plenty of ammunition. Raw materials too, aluminium, copper, lead, zinc, tin, cobalt, brass, rubber, jute, wool, phosphorus, and diamonds, shellac and a long list of other requirements.

Beaverbrook and Harriman are seeing that Russia is given tools for the task.

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the Russian Government is one of the principal ports on the Volga and is in the new oil-bearing district known as " the second Baku " which was producing 6,000 tons of oil daily in 1939. A pipe-line connecting Kujbyshev with the Caspian Sea near Emba was planned as long ago as 1930. Kujbyshev is also on the railway line from Moscow to Orenburg. The Embassies and Diplomatic Missions of foreign powers, and especially the British Military Mission, have moved out with the Russian Government from Moscow. As Reuter's Diplomatic Correspondent points out, this decision to remove the seat of Government from Moscow demonstrates in the clearest possible way the inflexible and relentless determination of the Soviet to continue the struggle against Hitler and Fascism. Moscow is hotly assailed by German forces and a movement of the seat of Government would be both logical and good strategy, for it is obvious that it would be quite impossible to run the Government from a city which is directly menaced by the enemy. That the Soviet Government, with their customary foresight, have foreseen the possibility that such a move might be necessary is shown by the fact that some weeks ago important archives and records were removed from Moscow for greater safety to the new seat of Government.

INVASION OF THE CONTINENT

PROS	CONS
1. A British invasion of Europe would involve Germany in a two-front war in which her full strength could not be employed on either front.	1. The Royal Air Force has already involved Germany in a two-front war. Large German forces are immobilized in the occupied territories from Stavanger to St. Jean de Luz, from Trondheim to Tobruk. Invasion would make little difference to the present dispositions of the German troops, but would serve to disperse Britain's less numerous forces—a danger that must be avoided until the prospect of an invasion of Britain dwindles.
2. It would constitute the most effective aid to Russia and lessen the danger of Russian collapse.	2. The Russians themselves have clearly stated the kind and quantity of aid they require. Britain and America are bearing their full share of this burden. Large-scale operations on the Western Front would greatly reduce, and perhaps extinguish altogether, the possibility of supply to Russia, thus increasing the danger of Russian collapse.
3. It would bring the simmering opposition to the Germans in the occupied countries to the boiling point of effective action; soldiers of the "V" Army, whose name is legion, would mobilize openly, abandoning their secret sabotage for a more vigorous role.	3. The prophets of an early "European Revolution" in concert with a British offensive assume that civilians and isolated groups can succeed where mobilized armies failed. The present "Go Slow" campaign of the industrial workers in the "V" Army is taking a steady toll. In the event of invasion, it might be smothered by wholesale massacre, at which the Nazis have proved themselves pastmasters.
4. The depressing effect on the German population would hasten internal collapse or revolution.	4. In the last war German collapse and revolution followed military reverses suffered after four years of land warfare. For two years the German armies have not known defeat. They have marched on from one aggressive victory to another. Something more subtle and more substantial than the mere landing of an expeditionary force on the Continent will be necessary to start disintegration of the German Home Front.
5. America would be convinced that Britain "means business" and the people of the United States would be encouraged to increase the impetus of their aid programme.	5. It would be the height of folly to subordinate military considerations to the advantage of securing favourable headlines in the American newspapers.

WHAT IT ALL MEANS

To be effective, a British invasion of the Continent must be on a sufficiently large scale to achieve what no power, even Russia, has yet succeeded in doing—to inflict decisive defeat on the German land forces. An essential prerequisite of such an offensive is the winning of the production race in which Britain was a late starter. British blockade measures, British defence against the German war on shipping, British bombing of German industries and the defence of British industries are all factors in the winning of the production race from which British strategy cannot afford to be divorced.

Defence of the British Isles is still the most vital single factor in the strategy that will finally beat Hitler. The Middle East and Far East are other key points. They must be defended at all costs. While British leaders must concentrate for the time being on forcing the maximum possible dispersion of the German armies, not until the production race has been won, not until Britain has built up a colossal reserve of ships, tanks and 'planes, can they afford to disperse their own forces.

No arm-chair strategist can know the exact day on which Britain will be able to switch her strategy from the defensive to the offensive. Everyone knows that the day must and will come. Churchill of all men can be relied upon to recognize it when it dawns.

In his cable to General Wavell, Mr. Churchill said that India's fighting men would soon be defending their homes and their loved ones on a front from the Nile to the Caucasus. That vital front should not be weakened for the sake of a Continental adventure in the West.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 8—15, 1941

AUSTRALIA AND THE AXIS

" Labour disapproves of the Government's policy of giving unqualified aid to Britain in the prosecution of the war." (*German news in Persian and Arabic, October 6. German and Italian news in English, October 7.*)

Nothing could be more pitiful than the manner in which the Axis has tried to make political capital out of Australia's internal affairs.

Here is what Mr. Curtin, the Federal Premier, said on October 8 : " Australia wants to maintain British justice and British law and knows she cannot maintain them unless we wage war with all our effort. I wish always to be able to say that the Australian people gave all their resources in this war as a gift of free men and women to a Government, toward the accomplishment of victory."

The whole Cabinet consists of men who have distinguished themselves in one way or another connected with the war effort. Mr. Forde, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, said on October 4 ; " Australia under Labour will be able to play her part honourably and effectively as an integral member of the British Commonwealth."

DEEP IMPRESSIONS

" The Fuehrer's speech has made a deep impression abroad." (*German news in Hindustani, October 6.*)

" Hitler is obviously entertaining an unoptimistic view concerning the developments of the war. The Fuehrer frankly admitted that Russia is developing into an arsenal despite the tremendous German victories." (Japanese paper " *Yomiuri* " *on the Fuehrer's speech.*)

" Rotterdam was raided by the British Air Force on October 5. Only residential quarters were bombed and the indignation of the Dutch people is mounting." (*German news in English, October 7.*)

The indignation of the Dutch people is mounting, but against whom? They have already shown their attitude towards Britain. During the Royal Air Force raids in July the people of Holland came out into the streets and waved to the pilots to help them to attack military targets more effectively. The Quisling Government had to issue orders against such demonstrations, but they still go on.

WHAT GOEBBELS SAID IN 1940

Plenty

" The excellent wheat harvest in France has not been damaged by the war. For the first time in modern history, Poland, a very fertile grain producer, has been the object of an intensive German cultivation. These two facts with the plentiful supplies of Germany, constitute a convincing refutation of all those unsubstantial rumours about scarcity of food-stuffs in Europe."—*German Broadcast in English, July* 17, 1940.

" Harvesting in Europe has just begun and leaves no doubt that it is satisfactory, Germany is completely independent of this year's crops, having stored away vast reserves of grain for this year and next year."—*German Broadcast in English, August* 4, 1940.

" Starvation in Europe and especially of the German people can be considered to-day as only a monster of the British imagination. General Starvation, the last ally of Britain, disappeared before the war from the ranks of the living. Today nearly all foodstuffs are lacking in England and the situation becomes worse day by day."—*German Broadcast to Hungary, June* 28, 1940.

Scarcity

" Britain wants to starve the populations of French territories because famine has often spelt the beginning of revolutions."—*German Broadcast in French, August* 15, 1940.

" If England refuses to let food supplies pass through to the peoples of occupied areas, these people should not beg Germany to relieve their hunger; they should apply to the British."—*German Broadcast in Dutch, August* 9, 1940.

" If Britain gives up the idea of this blockade, serious food shortage could be avoided and without providing the least assistance to Germany herself."—*German Broadcast to Brazil, August* 10, 1940.

WHAT GOEBBELS SAYS IN 1941

Plenty

" The prospects of a good harvest in most European countries are very good."—*German Broadcast in English, July* 1, 1941.

" The grain crop of 1941 will be much better than that of previous years."—*German Trans-Ocean News Agency, August* 1, 1941.

Scarcity

" The weather has been unsuitable for harvesting. Grains, potatoes and vegetables have to a large extent not yet been brought in. The situation is serious."—*German-controlled Norwegian Radio, September* 12, 1941.

" This year there are farmers who would not hear, see or speak of the grain harvest. Certainly this year's harvest has not turned out in the way to which we have been accustomed."—*German Broadcast in German, August* 25, 1941.

Dr. Darre has told us that German harvests are good and yet:

Why were 700,000 tons of bread grain taken from Poland in 1940 ? 1,500,000 pigs, 7,000,000 hens, 150,000 cows taken from Denmark ? 200 tons of fish daily, and 20,000 tons of sugar taken from Norway ? 90 per cent of her reserves of butter and 43,000 tons of potatoes taken from the Netherlands ?

Because:

Fats can be turned into glycerine for explosives.

Starch can be used for the production of alcohol, acetone and glycerine.

Sugar and Sugar-beet are readily convertible into alcohol.

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

17th Oct.—The Royal Air Force bombs objectives at Duisburg and other places in the Ruhr and also attacks docks at Dunkirk, Ostend and Calais. Enemy shipping off Norwegian Coast and Frisian Islands are also bombed.

Slight enemy activity over Eastern England is reported and one enemy bomber is shot down.

18th Oct.—The Royal Air Force bombs targets in Western Germany.

19th Oct.—The Royal Air Force carries out several offensive patrols over the Cherbourg Peninsula. Radio stations are machine-gunned and two enemy aircraft destroyed.

20th Oct.—The Royal Air Force carries out a number of offensive patrols over Northern France. Attacks are made on a munition train, enemy supply columns, troops, gun-positions and enemy aircraft on the ground.

An enemy patrol vessel off the French coast is also attacked and an enemy supply ship off the Dutch coast.

A few enemy aircraft drop bombs in East Anglia, causing slight damage. One German aircraft is destroyed.

21st Oct.—One enemy aircraft is shot down into the sea off the South Coast of England.

22nd Oct.—The Royal Air Force attacks Bremen and Emden and also French and Dutch occupation ports and aerodromes.

In combats over France 13 enemy planes are destroyed as against 10 of the Royal Air Force.

Enemy planes drop bombs on two towns on the east coast of England.

23rd Oct.—The industrial centre of Mannheim in Rhineland, the docks at Le Havre and the harbour at Brest are bombed by the Royal Air Force.

German aircraft raid scattered points in North Wales and the Merseyside, causing little damage and some casualties.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

17th Oct.—British aircraft bomb Naples. British patrols are again active in the Tobruk and Frontier areas.

The Royal Air Force attacks Sardinia, Syracuse and Tarapani in Sicily, Axis transport in the Western Desert, and Axis ships at sea.

Naval aircraft torpedo two Axis merchantmen, each between five and six thousand tons, and hit another of about 4,000 tons.

18th Oct.—The first batch of wounded Italians arrive in Italy from the Russian front.

19th Oct.—"Plastering" of landing grounds at Derna, Gazala, Benghazi, Azozo and Sicily, and safe return form the "high spots" of a Royal Air Force Middle East Communiqué.

More Italian merchantmen are torpedoed by British naval aircraft.

The Royal Air Force carries out successful air attacks on objective in Naples and Syracuse.

20th Oct.—Two Italian torpedo boats are sunk in the Central Mediterranean, probably striking some mines.

An Italian communiqué states that the British Air Force have raided Benghazi, Tripoli and Acireale in Sicily.

22nd Oct.—Italy admits a five-hour raid by the Royal Air Force on Naples.

Benghazi is bombed by heavy aircraft of the Royal Air Force.

Reports from Milan say that a big operation is imminent in Libya on either British or Axis initiative.

The British Navy bombards enemy gun-positions in the Tobruk sector.

23rd Oct.—Reports are circulating in America that Italian army leaders are on the brink of revolt and that the Germans are planning the occupation of Italy.

Dr. Dalton, British Minister for Economic Warfare, warns Italians that the sooner they declare themselves against Mussolini, the better for them.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

17th Oct.—The United States destroyer *Kearney* is torpedoed and damaged by a German submarine 350 miles south-west of Iceland. President Roosevelt asserts that torpedoeing has taken place in the United States defence zone.

Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, declares that an Axis attack on Iceland now will meet with joint resistance from British and American forces. He adds that American troops will eventually replace all British troops in Iceland.

The United States House of Representatives passes the measure for arming U.S. merchantmen.

The American Federation of Labour recommends full assistance to the U.S.S.R.

18th Oct.—The United States Navy Department announces that its programme for the construction of air bases in the Pacific is progressing very well.

Mr. Harriman, leader of the American delegation to Moscow, returns to Washington from London.

The United States Press urges the repeal of the Neutrality Act. The veteran Senator Carter Glass demands its repeal.

19th Oct.—Rear-Admiral Byrd declares that " Adolf Hitler will not win unless he attacks and defeats the United States."

Mr. Wendell Willkie in a broadcast states that the United States must abandon the hope of peace and go all out to defeat Hitler and his Axis partners before it is too late.

20th Oct.—The United States Navy department announces that the destroyer *Kearney* has reached port with eleven men reported missing and two reported injured.

Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, says that diplomatic notes are not often sent to international highwaymen, while replying to a query whether the United States of America is protesting to Germany about the attack on *Kearney*.

21st Oct.—Mr. Cordell Hull and Mr. Harold Ickes, United States Secretary of the Interior, recommend the repeal of the Neutrality Act.

Mr. Harriman reports to President Roosevelt that he has great confidence in the Russian situation.

The United States Treasury advances Russia 30 million dollars cash against future deliveries of gold.

President Roosevelt announces that an American freighter is torpedoed off Africa.

The American-owned ship *Bold Venture* flying the Panamanian flag is torpedoed *en route* from Baltimore to England.

22nd Oct.—The leaders of the British Management and Labour Mission to America, express confidence that the United States arms output will reach its peak in the spring and will be sufficient " to lick Hitler or anyone else."

Commenting on the torpedoing of the American freighter Lehigh, President Roosevelt says " Arm them (ships) all".

23rd Oct.—It is reported that an American-owned tanker has been torpedoed on her way to England.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

17th Oct.—Soviet and German armies are suffering heavy losses. Marshal Timoshenko's armies are reported to be intact and fighting back with undiminished fury.

The defenders of Leningrad continue to counter-attack vigorously and claim some successes.

A successful Russian counter-attack drives the Germans back from Kalinin with heavy losses to the enemy.

The Nazi attack in the Orel direction slackens.

18th Oct.—The Moscow Radio announces that " the enemy is at the gates of Moscow but we shall not allow him to enter our city."

The Russians are powerfully countering the German attempt in the south to reach the industrial Don basin.

The recapture of Orel and another town in the Leningrad sector is announced by the Russians.

Odessa, it is revealed, has been evacuated in time and in perfect order.

The German High Command claims the successful conclusion of the double battle of Briansk and Vyazma with the " annilation " of Marshal Timoshenko's armies and the capture of over 600,000 prisoners.

19th Oct.—German troops are driven out of three towns in the western direction of the front and the Russians change attack into counter-attack also in the Kalinin district and in the Vyazma sector.

Odessa is incorporated in the new Rumanian Province of Transniestria by a decree published in Bucharest.

20th Oct.—M. Stalin proclaims a State of Siege in Moscow, which is to be defended street by street, house by house.

Soviet troops near Vyzama succeed in breaking through the surrounding Germans.

The Russian Government are now established at Kujbyshev (formerly known as Samara), 550 miles south-east of Moscow, on the banks of the Volga.

21st Oct.—Soviet troops repulse repeated attacks by large formations of German tanks in the Western direction of the front.

Moscow Radio announces the recapture of Pogastie near Leningrad.

The Russians are reported to have taken the initiative in the Leningrad sector.

Soviet troops cause several German losses in the Orel sector.

A German High Command Communiqué announces the occupation of the area around Stalino.

The Germans also claim the capture of the Baltic Island of Dagoe.

The British Embassy in Russia arrives at Russia's new capital, Kujbyshev.

22nd Oct.—The Russians entrench themselves in new positions following a German break-through at Mojaisk.

The Russians stop the German thrust to Rostov on the southern front.

Mr. Jesse Jones, United States Federal Loan Administrator, makes a further advance of two million pounds to Russia to buy munitions in the United States.

23rd Oct.—The Germans launch a fierce offensive on the approaches to the Crimea and fierce fighting is raging in the Donetz basin where the Russians have inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

The Soviets announce the evacuation of Taganrog.

It is revealed that the Rumanians have lost twelve divisions in the siege of Odessa.

Further fierce fighting in the vicinity of Mojaisk is reported. The Germans claim that some of their Spearheads fought their way at some points to 38 miles from Moscow and that Moscow has been heavily bombed.

General Zhukov, former Soviet Chief of Staff, is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Russian western sector (including Moscow). Marshal Timoshenko is transferred to another post.

The House of Lords passes a resolution expressing admiration for "the heroic resistance of our Russian Ally." Lord Beaverbrook says that the Russians will be able to reconstruct their industrial resources as the British did under Mr. Churchill's leadership last year.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, ETC.

17th Oct.—H.I.M. the ex-Shah of Iran is proceeding temporarily to Mauritius.

18th Oct.—The British and Soviet forces in Teheran move out to take positions elsewhere in Iran.

23rd Oct.—It is stated that 600 Axis nationals have left Iran in a troopship for internment abroad.

Britain sends Turkey a consignment of spare parts from Heinkel aircraft engines shot down on English soil.

SHIPPING

21st Oct.—The First Lord of the Admiralty reveals that British, Allied and Neutral shipping losses have been less in the last twelve months when they have had to face co-ordinated air, submarine and mine attacks than they were from submarine attacks alone in 1917.

Britain releases to the United States of America 15 oil tankers, formerly of American registry, to be used for alleviating petrol shortage on the East Coast of America.

22nd Oct.—The Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission says that American ship construction has caught up ton for ton with the sinking of Allied ships.

A British submarine sinks two enemy supply ships in the course of an attack on a convoy in the Mediterranean.

The United States Navy Department announces that three more British warships, making a total of 35, have arrived in American ports for repairs.

23rd Oct.—Mr. Harold Ickes announces that Great Britain is returning 40 tankers borrowed from the United States.

THE FAR EAST

17th Oct.—Lieut.-Gen. Tojo, War Minister, is commanded to form the new Japanese Cabinet.

A Singapore Radio spokesman declares that tension in the Far East is very near the breaking point.

All American merchantships are reported to have been ordered out of Japanese and Chinese waters.

The number of Japanese troops in Manchuria is stated to have been doubled.

18th Oct.—The new Japanese Cabinet is formed with Genl. Tojo as Premier and Mr. Shigenori Togo as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Curtin, the Australian Premier, declares that Australia is ready to hit back at any aggressor in the Pacific region

19th Oct.—The Japanese claim to be engaged in mopping-up operations round Ichang, the Chinese strategic town.

20th Oct.—Gen. Tojo, the Japanese Premier, declares that Japan stands at the crossroads of life or death and appeals for all possible sacrifice to be made so that the country may break off the "encirclement" by foreign powers.

A Japanese troop ship has been sunk by Chinese gun-fire on the Yangtse river.

22nd Oct.—Air-raid precautions are being tested in Tokyo.

The Australian War Cabinet meets to consider the Far Eastern crisis.

23rd Oct.—Japanese troops movements are reported in Indo-China, close to the Thailand border.

The Australian War Council discusses the Pacific situation.

VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

17th Oct.—Marshal Petain, refering to the internment of MM. Daladier, Blum, Reynaud, Mandel and General Gamelin, asks the French people to have faith in him.

19th Oct.—Genl. Karl Frederick Holtz, the Nazi Military Commander of the Nantes district of Occupied France, is assassinated.

20th Oct.—Genl. Weygand leaves Vichy for North Africa after attending a French Cabinet meeting.

21st Oct.—Fifty hostages, the Germans threaten, will be shot as a reprisal for the assassination of the German Commander of Nantes. Fifty more hostages will be shot if the guilty persons are not arrested before midnight of October 23.

The German authorities arrest the Prefect of the Loire Inferieure department in which Nantes lies.

22nd Oct.—A German officer is assassinated in Bordeaux and fifty hostages are arrested by the Occupation authorities.

Marshal Petain and Admiral Darlan appeal to Frenchmen to stop shooting Germans in view of the terrible reprisals.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

20th Oct.—The Bulgarians are unable to keep order in occupied Greece and so five German regiments have been sent there.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

19th Oct.—Mr. de Valera warns Eire that there is every possibility of the country being involved in war and even being invaded.

Acting on representations from the British and Russian Governments, the Afghan Government ask German and Italian nationals not engaged in Consular duties to leave the country.

The Cuban Secretary of State requests the Spanish Government to withdraw their Press Attache at Havana as the latter has been indulging in Falangist activities and totalitarian propaganda.

21st Oct.—President de la Guardia of Panama signs a decree, authorising ships of the Panama registry to be armed in order to defend themselves against all attacks.

22nd Oct.—Great Britain and Mexico resume diplomatic relations that were broken off in 1938 on the question of the Mexican Government expropriating foreign oil companies.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Information Officer and Special Press Adviser, Madras.]

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